(c) The repayment of loans from the State Governments form part of the revenues of the Central Government. The Central Government provides plan assistance for the Central and State plans from its resources which include loan repayment by the State Governments and other loan repayments. All State Governments are required to pay their loans and interest dues in time. Non-repqyment of loans and payment of interest will affect the Central resources during that year. Further, by giving moratorium on loan rapayment in one year, the liability of the State for the following year (s) goes up considerably and distorts State's financial position in subsequent year (s) making it worse to the extent of deferred liability as well as increased interest payment. In view of this, it has not been found feasible for the Central Government to agree to the request of the State Government of Assam for moratorium on principal and interest payment.

Hawala Racket

4213. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in "The Sunday Observe", New Delhi dated the September 22-28, 1996 under the caption 'India loses 1,000 crores in forex to touts';

(b) if so, the facts of the matter;

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this racket?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). Most of the monetary transactions in the international trade are carried through normal banking channels. But some businessmen do resort to unauthorised channels for making/receiving payments in respect of the aforesaid transactions. Amount routed through unauthorised channels cannot be quantified because of its clandestine nature.

(d) The Enforcement Directorate keeps a strick vigil to check such illegal transactions. Appropriate action, warranted under the law is taken as and when any such case is detected.

Revenue Earned through FERA, MRTP, etc.

4214. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of revenue earned by the Government through the implementation of 'FERA', MRTP and other related Acts during the last three years;

(b) whether any review has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government do not earn any revenue by way of implementing the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA). However, total of currencies (Indian and Foreign) confiscated and penalties imposed, as a result of adjudication of cases during the last three years comes to Rs. 107 crores (approx.)

No fee has been prescribed under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practises (MRTP), Act for filing of complaints before MRTP Commission. However, the revenue earned by the Commission by way of (i) supplying copies of orders (ii) sub-scription towards cause list and (iii) fees for granting recognition to consumers' associations during the last three years comes to Rs. 52,163/-.

(b) and (c). Major changes were carried out in the F.E.R.A. through the Foreign Exchange Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1993. No review has made with regard to the MRTP Commission.

Recruitment of Disabled and women in PSUs

4215. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of disable persons and women recruited in the Public Sector Undertakings separately during the last three years till date; and

(b) the scheme formulated and the target fixed for recruitment of such people in each undertaking during the years 1997 and 1998?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Saudi Arabia package from India

4216. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia is keenly looking towards packages from Indian companies in the field of hospital management, health care, banking, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There is no information with Government as to whether Saudi Arabia is looking towards packages from Indian companies in the field of hospital management, health care, banking etc.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Does not arise